

CREWKERNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1972.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

A.M. McCall
V.D., M.F.C.M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

D.V. Hague
M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

A.C.N. Gully, M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

Clerk to Medical Officer

Mrs. Y. Watson, M.A.

Health Visitors

Miss M. Hoskins, H.V., S.R.N., S.C.M.
Mrs. M. Moyle, H.V., S.R.N., S.C.M.

District Nurses

Miss E. Pym (resigned Sept. 1972)
Miss P. Young (from Sept. 1972)

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

and

HOUSING COMMITTEE

The whole Council

Health Department,
16, Church Street,
Crewkerne.
Somerset.

Tel. No. Crewkerne 3419

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Crewkerne Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1972.

It was a healthy year in Crewkerne; measles was the only infectious disease notified.

This is my 25th and last Annual Report to the Council. I have seen many changes during my time in the town, probably the most startling being the increase of road traffic. What used to be a quiet market town has become another irritating delay on the mad rush West.

The population has increased by about 1,000, the prosperity has also increased. The standard of living of Crewkernians has never been higher. The children have never been healthier.

Mr. Watson, the Clerk, and I entered the Council Service in 1948, in 1952 Mr. Gully and my Secretary joined the team and we have worked amicably together ever since. I would like to record my thanks to them and to the Council who have always treated me with courtesy and consideration. I would also like to congratulate the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Mr. Jack Tett, who joined the Council in April, 1948, and is the senior serving Councillor.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

A.M. McCALL

Medical Officer of Health

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SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population The Registrar General has given the population of Crewkerne to be 4,900, a slight increase on the previous year. The density is 3.9 per acre. The Rateable Value was £194,150 and the product of a new penny rate £1,870.

Birth Rate The corrected birth rate was 13.7 per thousand compared with a figure of 14.8 for England and Wales. There is a substantial decrease in both these figures over the previous year. There were five illegitimate births. This was 8% of all live births.

Death Rate The corrected death rate was 10.3 per thousand, compared with a national figure of 12.1. Out of a total of seventy deaths, twenty-three were due to heart disease, twelve were due to cancer. There was an increase in diseases of the respiratory system which accounted for a further twelve. Appendix A, Table 3 shows the full details of the causes of death.

Maternal Mortality There were no maternal deaths in 1972.

Stillbirths There was one stillbirth during the same period.

Infant Mortality There were four infant deaths, all due to prematurity.

Social Conditions There was little change in the mode of life for the majority of people in Crewkerne despite the continued rise in the cost of living. The most dramatic rise was in the cost of houses which reached a level well beyond the resources of most young married people.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

The health services provided by the Somerset County Council continued unchanged.

The Child Welfare Clinic was held twice a month and developmental checks on infants were carried out regularly. These were appreciated by the parents.

The two playgroups continued to flourish and both had waiting lists.

I inspected all the Schools in Crowkerne during the year and details are given in Appendix B, Table 1. The new comprehensive system of education has increased the school population of the town considerably and the inspections took much longer than in previous years.

The speech therapy clinic was held once a week. There was still a waiting list for treatment.

Only two orthopaedic clinics were held due to the illness of the orthopaedic sister who was appointed early in the year.

The school dental clinic was open throughout the year and in addition all schools were inspected.

Modernisation of the toilet block at the Ashlands School was completed in a very satisfactory manner.

Ramus House, the County home for the aged, was fully occupied and there is a considerable waiting list for admission.

The Crowkerne Old Peoples' Welfare Association continued to flourish and were raising funds during the year to build their own centre.

SECTION C

Prevention and Control over Infectious Diseases and Other Diseases

Apart from measles no other infectious diseases were notified to me during the year. There were no cases of tuberculosis.

The Mass Radiography Service continued making regular visits to the town and received fair support.

I carried out my B.C.G. programme of vaccination against tuberculosis in the autumn. I vaccinated 106 at Wadhan and twenty-three at Maiden Beech Middle School.

All routine immunisations against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis are carried out by private practitioners. The schedule is programmed by the computer. This saves an enormous amount of paper work and is accepted by both doctors and patients as being very satisfactory.

SECTION D

Environmental Health Services

A. Sanitary Circumstances

Climatic Conditions In 1972, although the weather was equable, spring was late and summer did not really start until July. From then on there was a good deal of sunshine and the weather continued mild until the end of the year.

Water Supply The water supply provided by the Wessex Water Board was satisfactory throughout the year both in quality and quantity. There are approximately 1,840 houses in Crowkerne and only two of these do not have a mains supply. Sampling was carried out regularly by both the Wessex Water Board (44 samples) and by our own health department (28 samples) and I am pleased to state that all the samples examined were satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal The preparation and plans for the improvement of the Eastern Outfall Works continued. The approximate cost of this work will be £180,000. The Northern Outfall Works are to be joined by a new sewer with the Merriott (Chard R.D.C.) works at a cost of £110,000.

There are two houses in the town with chemical closets.

Refuse Collection The Council continued a regular weekly collection of refuse but with twice weekly collections for schools and food premises.

Public Conveniences There are two public conveniences in the town. These are well maintained.

Rodent Control Our part-time rodent control operator carried out regular test baiting of Council property and sewers and dealt promptly with complaints from private residents. No serious infestation was reported during the year.

Swimming Baths Two County schools and one private school have swimming baths. All use mains water and chlorinate regularly in accordance with the code laid down by the County Council.

Nuisances Complaints were received from time to time by the Public Health Department. They varied considerably in nature. All were dealt with promptly and satisfactorily.

B. Factories Act

Details of the inspections carried out by the Public Health Inspector are shown in Appendix D, Table 1.

C. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

Routine inspections were carried out at a number of the eighty-six registered premises. Only informal action was necessary.

D. Housing

Details of the housing position at the end of the year are given in Appendix D, Table 2.

Although the Council did not build any houses in 1972, their programme includes forty-two for general need next year and a further twenty-six old peoples dwellings with a Warden, and a further thirty for general need in 1974.

The demand for housing continued and of the total of 200 on the waiting list twenty-eight were classified as urgent.

The Council continued to encourage applications for both standard and discretionary grants and gave approval for thirteen standard grants.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Milk sampling was carried out regularly by the County Health Department and forty-nine samples were examined. All were satisfactory.

Ice Cream Fifteen premises are registered for the retail of pre-packed ice cream. Our Public Health Inspector took twenty-two samples during the year. Twenty were placed in Grade I and two in Grade II.

Meat There are no licensed slaughter houses in the town and no routine meat inspection was necessary.

Food Hygiene Regulations There are fifty-three premises registered under these Regulations and all complied with the requirements. Only informal action was taken to secure compliance.

APPENDIX A TABLE 1

Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1972	...	...	4,900
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1972 according to the Rate Book	...	...	1,841
Rateable Value	...	...	£194,150
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£1,869.91
Area	...	...	1,291 acres

APPENDIX A TABLE 2

BIRTH RATE 13.7 per 1,000		Comparability Factor 1.12		
		M	F	Total
Live Births	Total	29	31	60
	Legitimate	26	29	55
	Illegitimate	3	2	5
Stillbirths	Total	1	-	1
	Legitimate	1	-	1
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	2	2	4
	Legitimate	1	2	3
	Illegitimate	1	-	1
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	Total	2	2	4
	Legitimate	1	2	3
	Illegitimate	1	-	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 week	Total	2	2	4
	Legitimate	1	2	3
	Illegitimate	1	-	1

APPENDIX A TABLE 3

DEATH RATE 10.3 per 1,000

Comparability Factor 0.72

		Total Sex All ages	Under 4 weeks	Under 1 yr.	1- 4	5- 14	15- 24	25- 34	35- 44	45- 54	55- 64	65- 74	75+
Cancer of Intestine	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer of Lung, Bronchus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cancer of Breast	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cancer of Other Sites	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Endocrine Diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hypertensive Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	7	-
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	-
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Bronchitis & Emphysema	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Causes of Peri- natal Mortality	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	33	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	6	19	-
	F	37	2	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	3	29	-

APPENDIX B TABLE 1

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>No. on Roll</u>	<u>No. in- spected</u>	<u>Date of Medical Inspection</u>	<u>Children having milk</u>	<u>Children having dinner</u>	<u>Date of last dental Inspection</u>
Ashlands	192	71	17/18/19/ 5.72	44.27%	77.08%	10.3.72
Maiden Beech	428	156	17/19/20 1.72	-	84.60%	29.6.72
St. Bartholomew's	193	87	14/15/16/ 6.72	55.95%	81.76%	2.12.71
Wadham	685		23/24/25/ 2.72	-	75.64%	December, 1972

APPENDIX C TABLE 1

Infectious Diseases

Measles 77

Analysis of Cases Notified

Under Age
1 yr. 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-5 5-9 10-14 15-19 20-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+ Unknown

Measles 5 3 3 6 56 3 1

Tuberculosis

Age Group Respiratory Non-Respiratory Respiratory Non-Respiratory
 M F M F M F M F

- 1							
1 - 5							
5 - 15							
15 - 25							
25 - 35							
35 - 45							
45 - 55							
55 - 65							
65+							
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX D TABLE 1

Factories Act 1961

	No. on Register	No. of Inspect- ions	No. of Written Notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authority	3	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	35	38	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
	<hr/> 38	<hr/> 42	<hr/> 1	<hr/> -
Cases in which defects were found				1
Cases in which defects were remedied				-
No. of Outworkers (Sections 153 & 134)				59

HOUSINGAction taken during year

1. No. of houses included in Clearance Areas for which Orders are still to be made	None
2. No. of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 48 of the Housing Act, 1957.	None
3. No. of houses closed or demolished under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas)	None
4. Housing Act 1957 (Section 17 - Individual Unfits)	None
5. No. of houses lost: (i) (a) houses demolished	None
(b) houses closed	3
(ii) For other purposes (road improvements, etc.)	None
5. No. of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished	None
6. No. of houses declared unfit under	
(i) Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	None
(ii) Section 72 of the Housing Act, 1969	None
7. No. of houses made fit during year	34
8. No. of unfit houses occupied under licence	None
9. Houses in multiple occupation (Housing Acts, 1961 to 1969)	None
10. Reconditioning of condemned houses - exclusion from Clearance/Demolition Orders (Housing Act, 1961)	4
11. Substitution of Closing Order for Demolition Order (Housing Act, 1961) Action taken	None
12. Housing Act, 1969 Section 28, General Improvement Areas - No. of Areas so defined	None
13. <u>Housing Act 1957 - Slum Clearance</u>	

1973 1974 1975 1976

1. Part a. Houses in areas to be declared	-	-	-	-
III b. Houses to be cleared	-	-	-	-
2. Part Houses likely to be subject to				
II demolition or closing Orders	3	3	3	3

14. Housing Act 1964. Any action taken during year	None
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	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	Lost from Conversion of two or more houses into one
	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes		
Local Authority	-	-	-	-	-	-
Private Enterprise	-	19	-	14	3	-

Number of Post-War Houses erected from
1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1972.

By Local Authority
409

By Private Enterprise
374

Future Housing Programme (if known) - Programme Forecast

1973	42 general need.	26 old peoples dwellings with Warden.
1974	30 general need.	
1975	23 general need.	
1976	-	

(a) No. of temporary housing units occupied	(i) Prefabs	-
	(ii) Huts, etc.	-
(b) No. of Houses found overcrowded		-

Houses required

(i) To replace houses scheduled for demolition	None
(ii) To abate overcrowding	None
(iii) For other purposes	60
(iv) Applications for Council houses at end of year	
(a) Urgent bona fide cases	28
(b) Applications for old people's dwellings	92
(c) Others	<u>80</u>
Total Applications	<u>200</u>

Number of Permanent Dwellings in District as at 31.12.71	<u>Gained</u>			Total (a) + (b)	<u>Lost</u>				Number of Permanent Dwellings in District as at 31.12.72
	a) Erected	b) Conversion	c) Council houses sold to P.E. during 1972		a) Demolished	b) Closed	c) Sold during 1972	d) Conversion	
	A	B	C		A	B	C	D	
L.A.	516			516			5		511
P.E.	1,304	19	6	5	1,334	3		1	1,330
Totals	1,820	19	6	5	1,850	3	5	1	1,841

OLD PEOPLE'S DWELLINGS

Total Number erected to 31.12.72			Number in Course of Erection		
With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid		With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid	
33	23		-	-	

Grants by Local Authorities to Private Owners

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority during year:

	<u>Received</u>		<u>Approved</u>	
	Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
1. Improvement Grants.				
2. Standard Grants	13	13	13	13
3. Special Grants.				